

Appl. No. 10/804,096
Reply to Office Action of January 27, 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): P. Marraccini et al.
Appl. No.: 10/804,096
Conf. No.: 7981
Filed: March 19, 2004
Title: COFFEE PLANT WITH REDUCED α -D-GALACTOSIDASE ACTIVITY
Art Unit: 1638
Examiner: D. Fox
Docket No.: 112701-535

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This Response is submitted in reply to the final Office Action dated January 27, 2006.

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Art Unit: 1638
Examiner: B.M. Koroma
Docket No.: 112701-535

AFFIDAVIT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

Sir:

I hereby state as follows:

1. My experience and qualifications are as follows:

- a) BSc. (U. College Galway, Ireland) and MS degrees in Microbiology (N.C. State)
- b) PhD Degree in Genetics (U. of Connecticut)
- c) 16 year of experience in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Research
- d) 9 years of experience in Plant Biochemistry
- e) 7 years of experience in Plant Molecular Biology

2. I have reviewed the outstanding Office Action dated January 27, 2006 pending against the above-identified patent application. As one having ordinary skill in the art, I believe that Patent Office's rejection of Claims 1-7 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is incorrect and based on a misunderstanding of the pending claims. The basis for my opinion is set forth below.

3. The claimed invention of the above-identified patent application relates, in part, to a coffee plant cell that produces galacto-mannans and that is modified to reduce endogenous levels of α -D-galactosidase activity in order to increase galactose branching of the galacto-

considered
5/2/06
MF